

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 953

By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to honor M. La-Troy Williams for his meritorious service to the City of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those citizens who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and who, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable gentleman is M. La-Troy Williams, who has selflessly devoted his time and talents to the Memphis business community and to the children of Saint Augustine School; and

WHEREAS, a leader in the Memphis business community for many years, Mr. Williams is the former owner of *Mid-South Express News*, *Sugar Magazine*, and 2020 Restaurant and Supper Club; in the 1980s, he supported struggling black businesses and organizations, including the NAACP, with start-up and development loans while serving as the Executive Vice President of the Black Business Association in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was nominated in 1981 as one of the Top 100 Young Men in America, and in 1982 as a member of the *Who's Who in Tennessee*; in 1989, he created 112 businesses as president of the Mid-South Business Ledge, which served Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi, and he published thirty-five minority newspapers in 1991; and

WHEREAS, M. La-Troy Williams currently serves as CEO and President of the ICA/First Supreme Trust Company, which is developing three projects: publishing the *Evening Daily News*, operating B and W Industrial, and manufacturing the Wee Kart, Tiger cars, and Gazette sports Karts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams has also served ably as Athletic Director and Coach for the boys' basketball team of St. Augustine School, winning 40 straight regular season games; after

38 straight games, the Thunderboltz reached a milestone and made history by shutting out the opponent's teams 38-0; and

WHEREAS, Coach Williams's coaching record is 102 wins against only three defeats in four years; carrying out his coaching duties with the utmost acumen, alacrity, diligence, and character, Coach Williams has earned the respect and admiration of the coaches, referees, players, parents, and fans of Saint Augustine School; and

WHEREAS, as a recognizable and well-respected member of the Memphis business community, and as a winning elementary school basketball coach, Coach Williams and his life of purpose serve as a testament to athletic excellence and Christian faith; and

WHEREAS, he exemplifies the commitment to family, faith, and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor M. La-Troy Williams for his meritorious service to the Memphis business community and to Saint Augustine School, salute his generosity of spirit and fine Christian example, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.